



Victim Assistance Programs Proudly Presents:

**“REBUILDING LIVES”
VICTIMS’ RIGHTS CONFERENCE AND
AWARDS LUNCHEON**

**April 3, 2009
Doubletree Hotel
201 E. MacArthur Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92707
9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

Victim Service Award Recipients:

Valor Award: Roseyn Finkelstein

Community Category: Vicki Maciha; Senior Victim Advocate, MADD

Courts Category: Susan Price; Deputy District Attorney, Homicide Unit

Law Enforcement Category: Derek Marsh; Lieutenant, Westminster P.D.

Education Track Topics Include:

Gangs in the O.C.

Juvenile Sex Offenses: No “Minor” Matter

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault:

Immigrant Victims - From Vulnerable to Visas

Registration is due by March 21, 2009:

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“REBUILDING LIVES”

LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

Maria Suarez:

Maria was 16; her captor, a 65+ year-old-man, told her he had bought her for \$200, and she was now his slave. Entrapped in the house, Maria was abused physically, sexually, emotionally, and mentally. As though this experience weren't bad enough, after five years of this torture, a neighbor entered the small house and killed her captor. Falsely accused of the murder, Maria was imprisoned for more than 22 years until recently pardoned by the Governor of California. Now Maria works two days a week at the National Council of Jewish Women and three days a week at About Face where she leads support groups.

Ricky Hopkins:

Ricky Hopkins began playing tenor saxophone at the age of 11. Known for his trademark sound and highly energetic solos, Hopkins attended the world renowned Hamilton High School Academy of Music in 1999 and was a member of its award winning jazz ensembles. He performed at the prestigious Monterey Jazz Festival in 2002 and 2003, taking top soloist honors in 2003. In October 2005, Hopkins was severely beaten in a hate crime. The seriousness of the injuries forced him to stop performing; he was told he would probably never play again. However, his desire to play brought him back to the stage. While most would consider such a tragedy a setback, Hopkins saw the event as a new start to his career. He recently graduated with a degree in music from UCI and is currently performing with his newly formed quartet *Ricky Hopkins and The Urban Band*, who will be performing during the luncheon for your entertainment.

Chimine Arfuso:

Chimine came home from high school to find a man in her bedroom who then tied her up and raped her. She reported the crime to law enforcement, and the perpetrator was eventually convicted. Chimine provided a powerful Victim Impact Statement at the sentencing hearing, where she forgave the perpetrator, citing that hate and anger are at the root of these crimes to begin with. Chimine went on to college, where she continued to heal from her victimization. In 2008, nine years after her assault, Chimine began her own non-profit entitled “Create Social Change” to promote awareness about violence. Chimine endorses the idea that talking about violence brings us one step closer to breaking the cycle. “Create Social Change” looks at the roots of violence, challenges the socialization of the “appropriate” reaction to violence, and begins its prevention message with our communities' youth.

“REBUILDING LIVES” EDUCATION TRACKS

Gangs in the O.C.:

Featuring Kevin M. Ruiz, Orange County District Attorney Investigator, this education track will provide a compelling presentation on the history of Orange County gangs. In addition to discovering the evolution of this county’s gangs and gang activities, the workshop participant will have the opportunity to explore various gang lifestyles and behaviors. Kevin will dispel stereotypes, challenge assumptions, and help participants realize the difficulty in identifying persons involved in gangs in the O.C. This education track will conclude with details on law enforcement’s approach to the gang problem and future trends for Orange County.

- POST Certification Available

Juvenile Sex Offenses: No “Minor” Matter:

Featuring Dr. Veronica Thomas; Nancy Quimbiurco, Senior Social Worker; and Detective Corporal Dean Capelletti from the La Habra Police Department, this track will focus on the identification, investigation and treatment of Juvenile Sex Offenders and their victims. Participants will become more familiar with the physiological, psychological and behavioral components of sexual interest, as well as, the identification of sexual deviance in juveniles. Child Sexual Abuse Accommodation Syndrome will be discussed and used to help explain coping techniques used by juveniles that contradict adult expectations. Information will be given to address Social Services and Law Enforcement’s role as it pertains to the investigation, documentation and preparation of juvenile sex cases and the services that are available to assist in this process.

- Approved by the Board of Behavioral Sciences to offer continuing education for MFT and LCSW licensure requirements in the State of California (Provider #504 CE Coord - Hether Benjamin, LMFT).
Course meets the qualifications for 3 hours of CEU credit for MFTs and/or LCSWs as required by the CA BBS.
- Application for POST has been submitted

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault: Immigrant Victims – From Vulnerable to Visas:

Featuring Veronica De Marco, MFT and Kirsten Kreymann, Attorney at Law, this education track will take on the complex issues faced by immigrant victims of crime from two vantage points, cultural considerations and federal immigration relief. First, the participants will be asked to consider the various cultural issues that impact an immigrant victim’s willingness to report, cooperate, and take advantage of victim services. From language, to resources, to expectations, to real and perceived fears, the first half of this track will address obstacles and inspire solutions. The second half of the track will provide specific details on the five types of federal relief that immigrant crime victims can petition under to gain legal status in the United States. Knowing how to identify victims that could potentially qualify for this type of assistance can significantly impact work with immigrant victims. This track can improve response, investigation, prosecution and healing.

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Course meets the qualifications for 3 hours of CEU credit for MFTs and/or LCSWs as required by the CA BBS.
- Application for POST has been submitted
- Application for one (1) hour of MCLE credit has been submitted